



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 16, 2023

COUNTY OF KAUA'I
KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
ELTON USHIO, ADMINISTRATOR
(808) 241-1800

Full-scale, Multi-Agency Search And Rescue Exercise set for March 23

LĪHU'E – In partnership with the United States Coast Guard, the County of Kaua'i will participate in a full-scale, Multi-Agency Search And Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at the Kukui'ula Small Boat Harbor and the surrounding area on Thursday, March 23, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We are grateful to the participating agencies for dedicating their time and expertise in this multi-agency exercise,” said Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami. “Mahalo to our partners with the U.S. Coast Guard, our county first responders and officials, and everyone involved for your efforts that will better prepare our island and people during unforeseen events.”

Participating in the exercise include the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD), Kaua'i Police Department (KPD), Ocean Safety Bureau (OSB), Civil Air Patrol, and Kaua'i Search and Rescue (KSAR).

“The Coast Guard and other Federal, State, County, and local partners coordinate Search and Rescue exercises throughout the Hawaiian Islands, which are designed opportunities to practice interagency operations, communication procedures, and overall coordination,” said Charles Turner, command duty officer, Coast Guard Sector Honolulu. “Additionally, these full-scale exercises allow us to evaluate notification and response procedures between agencies, strengthening our interoperability during actual search and rescue incidents. The Coast Guard and our partners have recently responded to several major search and rescue missions on the Island of Kaua'i. These exercises are significant training

opportunities and ensure we continue to operate as well as possible together as a team of responders in serving the people and County of Kaua'i."

Officials ask for the public's cooperation by staying clear of any noticeable or marked areas and exercise-related vehicles, equipment, and personnel. Training will be conducted near the Kukui'ula Small Boat Harbor and the surrounding area.

"The exercise aims to ensure that Kaua'i's first responders, federal partners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be fully prepared and well-coordinated for search and rescue operations," said Kaua'i Emergency Management Administrator Elton Ushio.

For more information about the exercise, please contact KEMA at 808-241-1800 or KEMA@kauai.gov.



Photo caption: Chief Petty Officer Timothy Elhadj, the officer in charge of Coast Guard Station Kaua'i, speaks during an asset open house between local partners on Kaua'i, Aug. 11, 2021. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew West/Released)



Chief Petty Officer Timothy Elhajj, officer in charge, Coast Guard Station Kauai, speaks with a member of the Kaua'i Police Department during a search and rescue exercise at Hanapēpē, Kaua'i, Aug. 11, 2021. The exercise simulated a search for an overdue kayaker and was held by the Coast Guard and County of Kaua'i. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew West/Released)

###